

I urge my colleagues to support me on H.R. 3350 in order to assess threats to our transportation infrastructure.

TRIBUTE TO WELCH'S ORCHARD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joe and Joan Welch of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for celebrating their Orchard's 25th anniversary this season.

As one of a handful of local orchards, Welch's has provided high quality products along with a dedication to customer service. Thousands of local residents flock to the orchard each year to enjoy the wide variety of products that the orchard offers, from honey crisp apples to 100-pound pumpkins. For 25 years Welch's Orchard has been a fun and entertaining attraction for children and adults alike.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Joe and Joan Welch and their staff for their 25 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Welch's Orchard and wishing them nothing but continued success moving forward.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JERRI JONES, U.S. MARINE CORPS, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Jerri Jones, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. LtCol Jones has served as a guardian of those in need while serving in the military and continues that service today in the great state of Texas.

LtCol Jones entered the United States Marine Corps on October 28, 1975. Her years of service have taken her throughout the Pacific theater, serving tours in California, Hawaii, and Japan. LtCol Jones' dedication to leading by example earned her the nickname "Combat Jones" while living in a tent in South Korea during the winter of 1979.

LtCol Jones was called to duty again and served a critical role during the first Gulf War that plunged many of her fellow Marines into the heat of battle. The first Gulf War saw many families' breadwinners deployed to active duty, leaving many spouses and families with financial difficulties. LtCol Jones took this crisis head on and eased the burden on these Marine families during these challenging times. LtCol retired on December 1, 1995.

Today LtCol Jones continues her service with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, where she coordinates the monthly business networking roundtable. LtCol Jones is well known for motivating and inspiring the Chamber's members with her warm sense of humor and energizing personality.

Nowhere is LtCol Jones' compassion for the defenseless more profound than in her work with the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center. During her tenure as Executive Director of the Advocacy Center LtCol Jones doubled the number of children and teens helped through the Center. Her leadership, tenacity, and compassion to serve those in need are felt by all who associate with her.

In celebrating LtCol Jones' life I am reminded of the parable of the talents found in the New Testament in which each servant was rewarded according to the work they had done. With deep admiration and respect, I pay tribute to her for all she has done with her talents in the service of her fellow man. Well done thou good and faithful servant.

H.R. 702—TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKETS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 702—to adapt to changing crude oil markets—on Friday, October 9th. This legislation will broadly remove almost all restrictions on crude oil exports from the United States. It was ill-advised and represented a huge missed opportunity to address our energy needs comprehensively.

Right now, we export limited amounts of crude oil from the United States, and this policy is working. There may come a time when it would be strategic to make an adjustment on our export strategy, but right now we are awash in oil in this country, gasoline prices are low and the President already has the latitude to help some of our strategic partners with limited U.S. exports if he deems it in the national interest.

Those in favor of exporting more crude tout benefits of job creation and lower gas prices. This is dramatically overstated. If some jobs are created in the oil fields, other jobs will be lost in refineries. The Energy Information Administration estimates that exporting more crude now would either have no impact on the cost of gasoline or only slightly reduce the price of gasoline. The real benefactors of this policy change would be large oil companies.

If Congress is going to provide yet another benefit to oil companies who don't need it, at the very least it should be part of a larger energy package that would actually help the American people and further our domestic energy security needs. We need to extend tax credits that support the wind and solar electricity sectors, industries that actually create far more jobs than would come from exporting more crude oil. We need to end some of the more egregious subsidies for the oil and gas sector, subsidies that cost the taxpayers billions of dollars every year. We need to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund which supports important conservation projects in every community in America. Instead of passing an isolated giveaway to big oil, we should take any energy legislation that comes to the floor as opportunity to look at energy comprehensively, with the ultimate goal of transitioning away from fossil fuels while keeping energy affordable and reliable for the American people.

If Republicans were actually serious about pursuing a bipartisan agenda, they would not have included provisions that broadly prevent the federal government from imposing any restriction on the export of crude oil under other authorities. They would not have included non-germane, vote-buying provisions such as the last-minute addition of funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP). That is why I voted for an amendment offered by my colleague, Representative AMASH, to keep MSP at its currently authorized level, instead of the \$500 million increase included in this legislation. There's no doubt that the sustainability of the MSP program is in question without increased funding. That is sadly the case for many federally-supported programs, all directly impacted by a Congress unwilling to provide additional revenue or compromise on an effort to finally eliminate the reckless sequestration caps that I've voted against since day one. Even if MSP were to receive the relief they need ahead of many others hurt by budgetary brinksmanship, the funding level ought to be carefully scrutinized. The highly debated, amended, and conferenced fiscal year 2016 Defense Authorization did exactly that, and concluded that the annual subsidy for MSP participants should increase from \$3.1 million per vessel to \$3.5 million per vessel—a 12.9 percent increase, not the 40 percent increase included in H.R. 702.

Overall, H.R. 702 was bad policy and represented a huge missed opportunity to address our real energy needs.

CELEBRATING LISA KORBATOV'S RECOGNITION BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lisa Korbato on her receipt of the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated leadership above and beyond the call of duty, and dedicated themselves to the betterment of their communities. Lisa's long and distinguished history of leadership throughout the greater Los Angeles area makes her an ideal choice for this great honor.

I have known Lisa for a long time, and I have seen the depth of her commitment to making Los Angeles a better place to live. I have seen the pride she takes in serving our community, and I have seen her work with her fellow Angelenos to improve our city.

Lisa and I share a passion for supporting local youth. Since 2009, she has served as a Governing Member of the Beverly Hills School Board, including a term as its President. In addition, she has served on the Board of Directors for USC Hillel at the University of Southern California, and the Jewish Education Trade School in Granada Hills.

She has been active in numerous youth-oriented community organizations, including Aviva Family and Children's Services, Vista Del Mar, and the Boy Scouts of America, Western Los Angeles County Council. And in 2013, she was honored with the "Legacy of Hope" award by Chai Lifeline, a charity that